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Area Wage Survey
Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, Tex.-La.
May 1984

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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
June 1984

This summary presents results of a May 1984 survey of occupational wages in the Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, which consist of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, Tex.; and Calcasieu Parish, La. This is 1 of 92 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 103 establishments employing 38,116 workers was selected to represent 398 establishments employing 73,344 workers in the area. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, Tex.-La., May 1984

Occupation	Number of workers			Hourly earnings (all workers)[1]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																		
	All[2]	Men	Women	Mean	Median	Middle range	3.35 and under 3.50	3.50 – 4.00	4.00 – 4.50	4.50 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.50	5.50 – 6.00	6.00 – 6.50	6.50 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.50	7.50 – 8.00	8.00 – 8.50	8.50 – 9.00	9.00 – 10.00	10.00 – 11.00	11.00 – 12.00	12.00 – 13.00	13.00 – 14.00	14.00 – 15.00	15.00 – 16.00	16.00 and over
Secretaries	388	2	379	10.68	10.82	7.79–13.25	-	-	-	9	7	11	25	14	13	24	13	14	15	58	36	41	51	23	18	18
Secretaries I	50	-	50	6.38	6.06	5.68– 7.21	-	-	-	9	3	5	14	1	7	3	7	-	5	25	17	14	16	-	-	-
Secretaries II	89	-	89	11.03	11.31	10.15–12.38	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5	-	4	5	25	19	27	32	22	12	16
Secretaries III	218	-	218	11.52	11.98	8.93–13.71	-	-	-	-	4	6	4	12	1	14	4	10	10	25	19	27	32	22	12	16
Secretaries IV	15	2	13	9.59	10.10	7.14–10.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	2	1	-	-	5	-	-	2	-	1	-
Secretaries V	9	-	9	15.37	15.66	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	*2
Stenographers	213	-	213	11.34	12.01	9.50–13.40	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	3	-	8	11	1	29	18	20	52	48	5	9	-
Stenographers I	87	-	87	11.83	12.01	11.69–13.10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	1	2	7	18	30	22	-	-	-
Stenographers II	126	-	126	11.00	11.95	9.13–13.41	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	1	-	3	11	-	26	11	2	22	26	5	9	-
Typists	27	-	27	5.83	5.57	5.48– 6.07	-	-	-	-	10	9	3	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typists I	21	-	21	5.72	5.63	5.25– 6.06	-	-	-	-	6	9	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	-	-
File clerks	77	-	77	5.44	5.19	4.85– 5.96	4	-	8	26	9	16	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Receptionists	13	-	13	5.12	5.00	- -	-	-	-	6	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	95	-	94	6.22	4.30	3.60– 9.15	-	32	18	-	4	-	7	1	3	3	2	-	10	5	7	3	7	-	-	-
Key entry operators	163	2	161	7.33	6.82	5.07– 8.93	-	9	-	28	12	23	6	22	4	16	2	-	5	6	12	12	4	2	-	-
Key entry operators I	126	1	125	6.52	5.96	4.90– 6.89	-	9	-	28	12	21	6	22	-	10	1	-	1	6	8	8	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators II	37	1	36	10.09	10.00	7.50–12.60	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	4	6	1	-	4	6	4	4	4	2	-	-
Computer operators	106	39	58	8.74	8.46	6.11–10.00	-	-	-	-	14	10	11	2	5	5	9	9	6	15	-	5	8	5	2	-
Computer operators I	30	21	9	5.66	5.77	5.25– 5.85	-	-	-	-	14	9	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	69	14	46	9.74	9.40	8.05–10.79	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	5	5	9	7	6	14	-	5	8	4	1	-
Computer operators III	7	4	3	12.07	13.43	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	1	-
Drafters	201	117	16	12.36	12.35	10.85–13.99	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	2	4	4	5	4	12	15	31	37	31	9	18	*34
Drafters III	51	18	9	10.06	10.00	8.50–11.86	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	4	4	9	4	9	12	1	-	-	-
Drafters IV	85	37	3	13.05	12.88	11.81–13.99	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	12	18	18	2	6	3
Drafters V	75	56	-	13.97	14.00	12.06–16.66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	7	12	7	10	21
Electronics technicians	89	89	-	11.83	12.73	8.95–14.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	24	6	4	3	3	11	32	-	-
Maintenance carpenters	274	274	-	14.21	14.30	14.29–14.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	2	-	14	254	-	*
Maintenance electricians	653	648	5	14.11	14.40	14.13–14.47	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	9	2	19	6	48	504	51	*
Maintenance painters	167	166	1	14.25	14.30	14.29–14.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	18	147	-	-
Maintenance machinists	288	284	4	14.23	14.36	14.29–14.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	5	-	8	262	8	-
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	1,180	1,179	1	13.71	14.33	13.83–14.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	14	37	42	2	28	11	27	158	718	136	-
Maintenance mechanics (motor vehicles)	211	210	1	12.55	13.35	10.50–14.30	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	8	24	21	4	22	37	87	*	-
Maintenance pipefitters	914	914	-	14.32	14.31	14.29–14.40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	86	845	-	-
General maintenance workers	21	20	1	7.82	7.66	6.08–11.31	-	-	2	-	2	-	5	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Stationary engineers	124	115	9	14.33	14.36	13.83–14.83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	23	89	22	-
Truckdrivers	712	687	11	10.77	11.37	9.10–12.54	-	-	17	-	22	8	10	32	32	11	15	2	65	37	158	187	66	48	-	-
Truckdrivers, light truck	76	72	4	10.49	13.06	8.78–13.06	-	-	17	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	2	-	38	4	-	-
Truckdrivers, medium truck	172	158	-	11.31	11.81	9.07–13.07	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	11	-	15	-	19	25	34	10	20	36	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	208	208	-	10.29	11.36	9.10–11.36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	21	11	-	2	45	-	119	-	8	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	402	383	16	7.21	7.02	5.00– 8.20	-	1	53	44	27	14	-	1	84	43	65	4	-	36	-	30	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	388	367	21	10.61	12.38	7.50–12.85	-	-	-	-	-	11	50	28	-	48	8	-	-	-	17	144	84	-	-	-
Guards	798	548	122	6.05	4.25	3.75– 6.41	15	235	233	41	11	28	48	5	9	6	-	8	8	18	22	23	72	6	14	-
Guards I	798	548	122	6.05	4.25	3.75– 6.41	15	235	233	41	11	28	48	5	9	6	-	8	8	18	22	23	72	6	14	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	1,141	662	479	4.25	3.45	3.35– 3.90	586	284	80	67	16	3	15	-	7	-	1	-	-	18	66	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Incentive payments, such as those resulting from piecework, production bonuses, and commission systems, are included in the wages reported; nonproduction bonuses are excluded. Cost-of-living allowances are considered as part of the workers' regular pay. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[2] May include data for workers not identified by sex. Similarly, for occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

[*] All workers were at $16.00 to $17.00.

[*] Workers were distributed as follows: 21 at $16.00 to $17.00; 2 at $17.00 to $18.00; and 1 at $18.00 to $19.00.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles, Tex.-La.,[1] May 1984

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	368	103	73,344	100	38,116
Manufacturing	50	65	34	35,232	48	24,853
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	303	69	38,112	52	13,263

[1] The Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange and Lake Charles Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through February 1974, consist of Hardin, Jefferson, and Orange Counties, Tex.; and Calcasieu Parish, La. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

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